

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00062 080913Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

MCT-01 SY-05 /083 W

-----056887 090012Z /61

R 071557Z APR 78

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1883

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, UK, EI

SUBJECT: TERRORIST AND POLITICAL LULL IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REF: BELFAST 061

1. TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET IN PAST DAYS,  
AND THE LEVEL OF ACRIMONY ON THE POLITICAL SIDE HAS FALLEN,  
DESPITE SOME JUICY SUBJECTS.

2. TERRORIST ACTION: SINCE REFTEL ON MARCH 30, WE RECORD  
THREE ATTACKS ON SOLDIERS -- A SOLDIER WOUNDED SERIOUSLY BY  
A HIGH VELOCITY SHOT FIRED AT A PATROL IN THE BOGSIDE DISTRICT  
OF LONDONDERRY, TWO SOLDIERS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED BY A BLAST BOMB  
THROWN AT THEIR VEHICLE IN CENTRAL ULSTER, AND A PREGNANT  
WOMAN NARROWLY MISSED BY A BULLET INTENDED FOR AN ARMY PATROL  
IN BELFAST. THERE WERE ALSO A FEW MINOR FIRES, A COUPLE OF  
KNEE CAPPINGS, SOME ARMED ROBBERIES, AND THE VANDALISM OF A  
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BELFAST. A LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION  
(THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE) ALSO THREATENED TO STOP FURTHER  
CLEARANCE FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN THE BELFAST SHANKILL AREA:  
""WAYS AND MEANS WILL BE FOUND TO STOP THE WORK GOING AHEAD.""

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00062 080913Z

3. POLICE REGISTERED A MAJOR SUCCESS WHEN THEY FOUND AN  
AMERICAN-MADE M60 MACHINEGUN DURING A HOUSE SEARCH IN BELFAST.  
FORENSIC EXPERTS ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE GUN WAS  
USED IN RECENT ATTACKS.

4. THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE ANNO THAT IN THE FIRST  
QUARTER OF 1978 31 PEOPLE DIED IN TERRORIST-RELATED INCIDENTS

(INCLUDING THE 12 KILLED BY THE MID-FEBRUARY LA MON FIRE BOMB), COMPARED TO 40 IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR, AND 98 WERE INJURED (COMPARED TO 400 LAST YEAR). WE NOTE THAT THE NUMBER OF DEATHS THE FIRST QUARTER OF THIS YEAR WAS CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE PRECEDING QUARTER'S 13.

5. DROP IN POLITICAL ACRIMONY: THE LEVEL OF ACRIMONY IN THE BRITISH-IRISH-NORTHERN IRISH RELATIONSHIP DROPPED NOTABLY FROM THE ROUND OF CAUSTIC CRITICISMS NOT LONG AGO. THERE IS INTEREST IN THE CALLAGHAN-LYNCH MEETING IN COPENHAGEN TODAY (APRIL 7) OR TOMORROW, AND LOCALS REACTED FAVORABLY TO THE IRISH BISHOPS' STATEMENT ON CONTRACEPTION IN THE REPUBLIC (DUBLIN 1139). ON THE THORNY QUESTION OF EXTRADITING TERRORISTS FROM THE SOUTH, TWO CASES THAT WOULD HAVE RAISED CLOUDS OF RHETORIC TWO WEEKS AGO PASSED ALMOST UNNOTICED. THE DUBLIN HIGH COURT REPORTEDLY RELEASED A COUNTY DONEGAL MAN WHO HAD ESCAPED FROM NI'S MAZE PRISON IN MAY 1976, WHEN HE WAS HELD FOR MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF NI POLICEMEN. THE MAN SAID THAT IF EXTRADITED HE WOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR A POLITICAL OFFENSE OR AN OFFENSE CONNECTED WITH A POLITICAL OFFENSE. AND A LOCAL PAPER REPORTED OFFICIAL FIGURES ON EXTRADITION REQUESTS: SINCE 1971 NI POLICE MADE 57 REQUESTS FOR EXTRADITION OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS FROM THE REPUBLIC, AND ONLY ONE WAS UPHELD. IN CONTRAST NI COURTS UPHELD 23 OF THE 34 EXTRADITION WARRANTS SUBMITTED FROM THE SOUTH.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00062 080913Z

6. CAMPAIGN ON PRISONERS: IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED HERE THAT THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON A NOVEMBER 1977 INVESTIGATION WILL ABSOLVE AUTHORITIES FROM CHARGES OF PRISONER ABUSE. PERHAPS AS A COUNTER TO THAT EXPECTATION, THE PROVISIONAL SINK FEIN HAS STEPPED UP THE CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF THE 300 OR SO PRISONERS "ON THE BLANKET" IN THE MAZE PRISON -- I.E., CONVICTED TERRORISTS WHO REFUSE TO ACCEPT PRISON DISCIPLINE BECAUSE THEIR SPECIAL STATUS WAS REMOVED OVER TWO YEARS AGO. PRISONERS REPORTEDLY HAVE INCREASED THEIR PROTESTS, AND SINK FEIN HAS TRUMPETED ABUSE ALLEGATIONS, WHICH AUTHORITIES DENY. THE CAMPAIGN SEEMS TO HAVE HAD NO RESONANCE.

7. MOST RECENTLY PROVISIONAL SINK FEIN HAS CHARGED HARASSMENT OF A MEMBER WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO SPEAK ON PRISON CONDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS CONFERENCE.

STOUT

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECURITY, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BELFAS00062  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780153-0301  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BELFAST  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacrzt.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 91abd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BELFAST 61  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3046642  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TERRORIST AND POLITICAL LULL IN NORTHERN IRELAND  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SHUM, UK, EI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/91abd4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014